**Stereotypes vs. Generalizations**

*While all stereotypes are generalizations, not all generalizations are stereotypes!*

*Stereotypes are oversimplifications of people groups widely circulated in certain societies and usually include words such as “all” or “everyone” instead of “many” or “some;” or definitive, emphatic statements of any kind which infer that everyone in the culture has a certain characteristic.*

*Generalizations use qualifying words such as “tend to”, “typically,” and “often.” They do* ***not*** *imply that everyone in the culture has a certain characteristic. It is important to choose your words carefully. Your desire to learn more about the culture will sound much more authentic if you resist the temptation to exaggerate and stereotype.*

*Here’s a good example of the difference between stereotyping and generalizing:*

*“****Women sure are second class citizens in Japan.” (stereotype, use of “women sure are”)***

*vs.*

***“It doesn’t seem that women are treated equally to men in employment; for example, women are often required to make tea because of their gender.” (generalizaton, use of “it doesn’t seem”, and “ for example”.)***

*The extra detail in the generalized statement makes it preferable to the stereotyped statement. You haven’t concluded anything yet, but a pattern seems to be emerging from the information you are getting about the country. It allows your listener to see what the generalization is based on and can lead to further discussion about whether your assumption is accurate or not.*

*(From Maximizing Study Abroad, Regents of the University of Minnesota)*

*(continued)*

***Time for an exercise!*** *Profe Pickett or Frau Spring will give you a worksheet called “Differentiating Stereotypes and Generalizations.” Find a partner, follow the directions and work together. Remember what you have learned about the differences between them and do your best! Your participation is worth 5 points. Profe and Frau will be circulating around the room to check your progress. When you are finished, check your work.*

***HOMEWORK:*** *This concept is so important there is homework tonight! You need to take a look at some stereotypes of Americans, how they make you feel and figure out how to make generalizations out of them instead.*

*10 pts--due tomorrow*

*In the meantime, check out the picture below on the next page!*

*How do you feel about these stereotypes? (pictures on next page)*

